Approved for Release: 2020/01/15 C06619073

~~SECRET~~

8 May 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: James Speyer KRONTHAL; *Newsweek* Article of 15 May 1989, Entitled: "The Soviet's First CIA Mole"

1. On 8 May, Dick Helms told me the following concerning:

JAMES SPEYER KRONTHAL.

Dick knew KRONTHAL very well. KRONTHAL was a former OSS officer who served for us [redacted] and, indeed, committed suicide, probably in 1952. He was a bachelor and Dick thinks he probably was a homosexual. One day he did not show up for work and several employees went to his home and found him dead in bed. He evidentally had taken something, but an autopsy was unable to determine what substance was in his system. (b)(1) (b)(3)

There was no thought whatsoever given to him being a spy for the Soviets. Dick recalls that the polygraph at the time was uncovering cases of homosexuality, and Dick speculates that perhaps KRONTHAL realized he had no future with the Agency because of his homosexuality and committed suicide.

2. All portions of this document are classified SECRET.

Gardner R. Hathaway
Associate Deputy Director for Operations
for Counterintelligence

Attachment:
*Newsweek* Article of
15 May 1989

cc: DC/CIC/AG w/att
ADDO/CI/GRHathaway/[redacted] (8 May 89) (b)(6)
Distribution:
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WARNING NOTICE--INTELLIGENCE
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[redacted] (b)(3) (b)(3)

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# The Soviet's First CIA Mole

The Soviets planted their first "mole" in the CIA in 1952, and he was a personal friend of Director Allen Dulles, according to a former Marine officer who worked for the agency. In a new book called "Widows," William Corson names the Soviet agent as ~~James Speyer~~ Kronthal, station chief in Bern, Switzerland. Kronthal committed suicide after dining with Dulles, who was considering him as head of clandestine services. Corson and coauthors Susan and Joseph Trento say Kronthal's homosexuality became known in Nazi Germany years earlier, that the Soviets obtained those files, filmed him with boys and recruited him.

■ Will the Kremlin think the CIA is recruiting dwarfs when its spy satellites spot dozens of tiny figures on the grounds of agency headquarters in Langley, Va., this fall? That's the joke in intelligence circles as work concludes on the first day-care center for CIA offspring.

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